



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/918,117  
U.S. Application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, et al  
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT  
Confirmation No.: 2600  
Customer No.: 24731  
Docket No.: 18733/00060  
Filed: July 30, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3682  
Examiner: Bradley J. Van Pelt

RECEIVE

JAN 23 2004

GROUP 3682

AF/3682  
#15/Amdt  
(AEE)  
1-30-04  
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*Disregard  
recommender  
2/2/04*  
**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **MAIL STOP AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 15, 2004

Date of Deposit

Brian E. Harris

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

*Brian E. Harris*

Signature

January 15, 2004

Date of Signature

**AMENDMENT**

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2003, which provides for a response period ending January 20, 2004.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: